

**REMARKS**

We are enclosing the priority document DE 102 56 623.2.

Claims 1-10 are in the application of which claims 3-5 (2), and 8-10 (7) are deemed allowable over the prior art. Claims 2 and 7 have been amended to make them more definite.

We request reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Houvig '528.

According to amended claim 1 the invention now concerns an electric device with a two-wire interface, said two-wire interface serving to deliver electric power to the electric device and to transmit a signal, with the maximum power consumption of the electric device during normal operation being restricted to a predefined upper limit, wherein the permissible power consumption of the electric device is automatically and temporarily increased beyond said predefined upper limit when the electric device is switched into a special operational function mode, whereby more electric power is available to the electrical device while in the special function mode.

The subject matter of amended claim 1 goes back to the subject matter of original claim 1 and to what is stated in the original description on page 2, lines 24 and 25, i.e. that more electric power is available to the electric device while in the special function mode.

Method claim 6 is similarly limited in that “as the electric device is switched into special operational function mode, the permissible maximum power consumption of the device is automatically and temporarily increased beyond the predefined upper limit.”

We submit that the subject matters of amended claims 1 and 6 are new over the prior art.

According to the Examiner, the subject matters of original claims 1 and 6 lacked novelty over Houvig. However, in Houvig it is described that only for “**signal initiation**” a loop current over the upper limit of 20 mA is used. With respect to this, in Houvig it is stated (pat. col. 2, lines 44-51, emphasis added):

*“the communication device draws an additional 16 mA from the loop making the total loop current 20 to 36 mA. This occurs for only one digital bit time and is used as a “signal initiation” bit S to signal to the transmitter 2 that communication is being initiated.”*

Then during communication, the loop current does not exceed the upper limit of 20 mA (pat. col. 3, lines 24-29):

*“Digital transmission from the transmitter 2 to the device 8 continues with the loop current being varied by the transmitter 2 between 4 and 20 mA for each bit until the communication operation is completed.”*

Thus, following Houvig, **the electric device is not provided with more electric power** while in the special function mode of communication operation.

The subject matter of claims 1 and 6 are not only new, but are not obvious from the prior art either.

It is an essential difference between the claimed invention and the Houvig device that **during the special mode, more electric power is available than during normal opera-**

tion. According to Houvig, a special function mode, i.e. a communication operation, is only initiated by a signal current, which lies over the upper limit for one digital bit time. This does not lead to more electric power, which is available during the communication operation, which means that according to Houvig the communication operation is performed between 4 and 20 mA.

Accordingly, the so-called skilled artisan has no possibility to get any information or hint from Houvig to use more electric power **during** the special function mode.

Accordingly and for the forgoing reason claims 1-10 should be allowed.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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